

Message Text

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USIA FOR IWE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC CY

SUBJECT: AFS SELECTION OF CYPRIOTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1975-76

1. USIS NICOSIA, WHICH ADMINISTERS AFS SELECTION PROCESS, INFORMED BY MAY 30 LETTER FROM FLORENCE LEON OF NEW YORK OFFICE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE THAT TEN CYPRIOTS OF WHOM TWO ARE TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR U.S. PLACEMENT IN COMING ACADEMIC YEAR. LAST YEAR THIRTEEN CYPRIOTS WERE SELECTED OF WHOM FOUR WERE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. ALTHOUGH THIS YEAR'S RATIO OF TURKISH TO GREEK CYPRIOT STUDENTS CLOSELY PARALLELS ACTUAL POPULATION RATIO ON ISLAND, IT REPRESENTS 50 PERCENT CUT IN TURKISH CYPRIOT PARTICIPATION WHICH EDUCATIONAL LEADERS OF TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY WILL PROBABLY FIND DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT AND POST WILL FIND DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. AFS PROGRAM HERE IS LOOKED ON BY EACH COMMUNITY IN SEPARATE TERMS: CLOSELY KNIT TURKISH COMMUNITY WILL SEE ONLY ITS OWN LARGE CUT INSTEAD OF OVERALL PICTURE.

2. LEON LETTER INDICATED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT CANDIDATES WERE GENERALLY YOUNGER THAN GREEK CYPRIOT CANDIDATES AND YOUNGER THAN RECOMMENDED AGE. DIFFICULTY HERE IS THAT BEST TURKISH CYPRIOT CANDIDATES STARTED SCHOOL EARLIER AND ARE THEREFORE YOUNGER THAN GREEK CYPRIOT STUDENTS IN SAME GRADE I.E., FOR AFS SELECTION PROCESS, TWO YEARS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

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AFS HAS BEEN WILLING IN PAST TO ACCEPT CYPRIOT CANDIDATES

SLIGHTLY YOUNGER THAN RECOMMENDED AGE.

3. REGRET INVOLVING DEPARTMENT IN WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE PROGRAM BUT POST FACES PROBLEM IN EXPLAINING THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS PECULIAR POLITICAL PROBLEMS CYPRUS PROGRAM WITH ITS TWO ESSENTIALLY SEPARATE COMMUNITIES. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT AFS NEW YORK (TEL 212-689-1780) INFORMING THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SENSITIVITIES TO 50 PERCENT CUT IN STUDENTS AND ASKING THAT FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ONE OF THREE TURKISH CYPRIOT CANDIDATES TURNED DOWN. IF AFS PLEADS PRESSING ECONOMIES IN PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST AFS SPREAD TURKISH CUT OVER TWO TAPS BY PLACING THREE TURKISH CYPRIOTS THIS YEAR AND TWO NEXT YEAR.

4. PLEASE ADVISE VIA THIS CHANNEL.
CRAWFORD

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